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A Copie of the principall parts of his Maiesties Commission for
granting of Pardons to such as vse Trades, whereto they haue not been Apprentices, and for dispensing with them
to continue the same for their Liues, notwithstanding the Statute of *Quinto Elizabeth*.



I AMES by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To
all to whom these presents shall come greeting. Whereas there is nothing more pleasing to God, and profitable to the Commonwealth of this Our
Realme, then the training up of youth in good and commendable Arts, Trades, Sciences, and Mysteries, whereby they may be, not only kept from
idleness and sloth (the parent of all enormities) but also made apt and expert for the service of the Common-wealth, in the vse and practise of those
Arts and mysteries wherin they haue been educated and brought up: To which end and purpose, diuers good and wholesome lawes haue been made
within this Our Realme of England; as namely, in the fift yeare of the raigne of our late deare Sister of famous memorie Elizabeth, late Queene of
England, Capite quarto, a certaine Act or Statute was made, entituled, An Act touching diuers Orders for Artificers, labourers, seruants of Husbandrie, and Apprentices;
whererein it is (amongst diuers other things) enacted, that after the fift day of May then next comming, it should not be lawfull to any person or persons (other
then such as then did lawfully vse or exercise any Art, Mysterie, or Manuall occupation) to set up, occupie, vse, or exercise any Craft, Mysterie, or Occupation then
vse, or occupied within the Realme of England or Wales, except he should haue bene brought up therein seauen yeeres at the least as an apprentice, in manner and
forme as in the said Statute is expressed; nor to set any person on work in such Mysterie, Art, or Occupation, being not a workman at that day, except he should haue
bene apprentice, as is aforesaid, or else hauing serued as an apprentice, as is aforesaid, should or would become a Joynyman, or hired by the yeare: Upon paine that
euery such person, willingly offending or doing the contrary, should forfeit and lose for euery default, Fortie shillings for euery moneth; As by the said Statute (a-
mongst diuers other things) more at large appeareth. And whereas the said Statute is of great vse and importance in this Our Realme, as well for the trayning up
of youth in the knowledge and practise of sundry good and commendable Arts, Trades, Mysteries, and manuall Occupations, whereby they may liue and be maintai-
ned, as otherwise for the benefit of our said Realme. And whereas through the neglect of the due execution of the said Statute, diuers and sundry persons within
this our said Realme haue taken vpon them to occupie, vse, & exercise sundry Arts, Mysteries, Crafts, and manuall Occupations, whererein they haue not bin brought
up as apprentices, by the space of seuen yeeres, and haue also otherwise offended against the forme and intent of the said Statute: In which said Arts, Trades,
and Mysteries, the said persons hauing now by the space of many yeeres together imployed, and bestowed themselves, their labours, stocks, and industries, haue now
attained a good and perfect knowledge and vnderstanding in the same, and are become settled in a constant Trade and condition of life, whereby they are enabled com-
petently to maintaine themselves and families, which otherwise were like to perish, and fall into some idle and inordinate course of liuing, in case they should be now
restrained of and from the vsing and exercising of the same, or should be punished according to the true intent & meaning of the said Statute, as many of them here-
tofore haue bene by informations and suits brought and prosecuted against them by common Informers and others, to whom they are still exposed, and lie open to
be molested, sued, and inquieted by the like Informations and suits. Unless we out of Our Royall and Princely compassion shall provide some meanes to relieue them
in this behalfe. Know yee therefore, that we tending the publike good of our Realmes (which especially is procured by the due execution of good and profitable
lawes) doe hereby for Us, our Heires and Successors straightly charge, require, and command all and euery our Judges and Iustices of both our Benches, Bar-
rons of the Exchequer, Iustices of the Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, and all and euery other Magistrates, and other Officers, for the time being, to whom
it shall or may appertaine, That they and euery of them in their seuerall places respectively, doe take care, and from henceforth see to the due execution of the said
Statute, as well touching the training up of apprentices in commendable Arts and Mysteries, (whereby they may not be suffered to liue idly and inordinately, but
being therein well instituted in their apprenticeships may afterwarde become profitable members and seruiceable to the Common-wealth) as in the restraining of
others, (not so trained and brought up) from the practise and exercise of any Art, Trade, or Mysterie, contrary to the said recited Statute, or any branch or clause
therein contained: vnder the paines and penalties expressed in the same, which hereafter we will shalbe duely leuied and executed vpon such as shalbe found offen-
ders therein. Neuerthelesse, we being graciously pleased to extend our Royall fauour towardes such of our Subiects, as hauing heretofore taken vpon them, and
are now become settled and expert in the vse and practise of Trades, Artes, Mysteries, and manuall Occupations, whereunto they haue not bene brought up as ap-
prentices, as aforesaid, according to the forme of the said Statute, as well by pardoning their offences in that behalfe past, as also by licensing and dispensing with them
for continuing the same Arts and Trades for the time to come, for and during their liues, And minding to free and acquit them for euer from those molestations, suits
and troubles which they haue been heretofore and might hereafter be put vnto by Informers, and others, by meanes of the premises, in case they shall not imbrace our
Princely grace in this behalfe. And willing that the rigor of the said Statute shall not be exacted or inflicted vpon such of our louing Subiects, as haue transgres-
sed the said Statute, and lie open and exposed to the penalties thereof, as are yet willing and desirous to take hold of and imbrace this our grace and bounty so fa-
uourably and benignely proffered them. Know yee therefore, that we of our especiall grace, certaine knowledge, and meere motion, haue ordained, authorized, nam-
med, & appoynted, and by these presents for Us, our Heires, and Successors, doe ordaine, authorize, name, and appoint Our trustie and wel-beloued Sir James Spens
Knight, Archibald Primrose Esquire, Henry Goldsmith Esquire, and Robert More Esquire, to be Our Commissioners for and during the terme of seuen yeeres from the
date of these presents, And we doe giue vnto them the said Sir James Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or to any two or more of them,

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Of his Majesties Commission for

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A Copie of the principall parts
of a Bill for the better
regulating of the Trade with
the Colonies

AMES by the Hon^{ble} the
Commons of Great Brittain
in Parliament assembled
Sheweth That whereas
the Trade with the Colonies
is of great Importance
to the Kingdom of Great Brittain
and the Plantations
and that the Trade
with the Colonies
is at present
regulated by several
Acts of Parliament
which are
in many respects
defective and
inconvenient
and that it is
the Duty of the
House of Commons
to consider of
the Means for
improving the
Trade with the
Colonies
and for
regulating the
Trade with the
Colonies
in such a
manner as
shall be
most
advantageous
to the
Kingdom of
Great Brittain
and the
Plantations
and that the
House of Commons
doth therefore
propose
That the
Trade with the
Colonies
be regulated
by the
following
Bill



(whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) full power and authority by all lawfull waies or meanes, to inquire and informe themselves of all such person and persons being Tradesmen and Artificers, which before the date of these presents have used, exercised, erected, or set up any Art, Trade, Mystery, or manuell Occupation, wherunto they have not been bound or served as Apprentices, according to the forme of the said recited Statute, and thereupon to treat, contract, compound, and agree with all and every such person and persons, as hath or have before the date hereof used, erected, or set up any Trade, Art, Mystery, or manuell Occupation, contrary to the forme and effect of the said recited Statute, for such reasonable rates, summes of money, fine and fines, yearly payments, or annuities, as they shall thinke fit, for pardons, licences, and dispensations to be made and granted from Us, Our Heires, and Successors, vnder the great seale of England, in manner hereafter expressed, to all and every such person or persons offenders against the said Statute, as shall desire the same, as well for pardoning his or their offences past, as for licensing and dispensing with him and them to use and exercise such Arts, Trades, Mysteries or manuell Occupations, which he or they respectively now doe, or any time before the date hereof have used, set up, or exercised, for and during the time and space of his and their naturall life and liues, without sute, Information, trouble, or molestation to be had or prosecuted against him or them, for or concerning the same by any Informers or others, or for or concerning any paine, penaltie, or forfeiture, mentioned or contained in the said Statute, by reason of any offence committed, perpetrated, or done contrary to the forme and effect of the same, or any other Statute in that behalfe made to the contrary: And that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Sir James Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them (whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) to contract, compound, and agree with the said offenders, and every of them, as well before Informations, as after Informations against them exhibited in any Court whatsoeuer, for so much thereof as shall concerne Our part, and that before or after plea, or by or without any leaue, licence, or warrant of the Court, where any such Informations shall be exhibited, any Law, Statute, Constitution, or Ordinance made to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. And furthermore, of Our especiall grace, certaine knowledge and meere motion, we doe for Us, Our Heires, and Successors, by these presents giue and grant full power and authoritie to Our Attorney Generall for the time being, to prepare and draw up in due forme of law, so many bills or bookes of pardons, licences, and dispensations for and in the name of Us, Our Heires and Successors, during the time aforesaid, to be ingrossed and passed vnder Our Great Seale of England, as shall be desired by the said Sir James Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them, (whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) for all such person or persons as they Our said Commissioners, or any two or more of them, (whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) shall compound and agree with, for and concerning any the paines, penalties, offences, matters, causes, and premisses aforesaid. Provided alwayes that in every such seuerall pardon, licence, or dispensation to be prepared, and passed vnder Our great Seale as aforesaid, there shall not be contained or inserted aboue the number of thirtie persons at the most. And Our further will and pleasure is, And we doe hereby for Us, Our Heires, and Successors, grant, will, and ordaine, that all and every such pardon, licence, or dispensation, as shall be so made or granted as aforesaid, shall be good, sufficient, and effectuell in law to all and every such person or persons to whom the same shall be made and graunted, to authorize, enable, and warrant him and them to the free use and exercise of all such Trades, Arts, Mysteries, and manuell Occupations, which he or they at the date of these Our Letters Patents, or at any time before did use or exercise, wherunto he or they neuer serued, or were bound as Apprentices, according to the forme of the said Statute, without being sued, molested, questioned, or any way troubled, or enquired by Us, Our Heires, or Successors, or by any the Judges, Justices of either of Our Benches, Barons of Our Exchequer, or Our Attorney Generall for the time being, or by any other the Officers, Ministers, and Subiects of Us, Our Heires, or Successors, for, touching, or concerning the practising, using, & exercising of his or their said Arts, Trades, Mysteries, or manuell Occupations as aforesaid, contrary to the purport of the said recited Statute, or any other Statute in that behalfe made; The said Statute of Quinto Elizabeth, or any clause therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. In which said Letters Patents, or discharge, pardons, and licences of dispensations to be so drawne, or made to any person or persons compounded with as aforesaid, we will shall be contained therein a clause of expresse charge and command in the name of Us, our Heires, and Successors, to the Judges and Justices of both our Benches, Barons of Our Exchequer, Attorney Generall, Justices of Peace, Maiors, Bayliffes, Aldermen, Sheriffes, Escheatores, and all other Officers and Ministers to whom it may or shall appertaine, in their seuerall offices and places respectively, that they and every of them respectively, in their seuerall offices and places, vpon the sight or shewing forth of any such pardon, licence, or dispensation, or the inrolment, constat, or exemplification thereof, or a true Copie of the same signed with the hands of the said Sir James Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them (whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) testifying the same, shall forthwith disallow and discharge all Informations, sutes, billes, plaints, Judgements, and actions whatsoeuer, which are or shall be moued, stirred, commenced, sued, or prosecuted against all or any of the said persons so compounded with, pardoned, licensed, and dispensed with as aforesaid, for or touching any offence or offences, committed, perpetrated, or done contrary to the forme of the said Statute, or any branch or clause therein contained. And to giue order that no further proccesse or proceedings shall be had or awarded against them or any of them in that behalfe: And these presents shall be to our said Judges, Justices, Barons of Our Exchequer, Attorney Generall, and all other Our said Officers, a sufficient warrant and discharge for the doing and performing of the premisses, according to the tenor and true meaning of these presents. And Our further will and pleasure is, and we doe hereby require and charge, that from time to time, and at all times hereafter, Our Judges and Justices of either of Our Benches, Barons of Our Exchequer, & Our Attorney Generall, and all Justices of Peace, as well within liberties as without, Maiors, Bayliffes, Aldermen, and chiefe Magistrates of Citties, Boroughes, and Townes Corporate, Sheriffes, Escheatores, and all others, to whom it shall or may appertaine, That they and every of them respectively in their seuerall offices and places, shall at all and every time and times hereafter, accept, approue, and allow in all and every Our Court and Courts of Record, and other place and places, as well of all and every such Letters Patents of pardon, licences, & dispensations, vnder the Great Seale of England, so to be made and granted as aforesaid, as of the inrolment, Constat, or exemplification thereof, or of a true Copie of the same, vnder the hands of the said Sir James Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them (whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) testifying that the said person or persons have compounded and receiued his Maesties pardon, licence, or dispensation as aforesaid, as a good, full, and sufficient barre, release, dispensation, and discharge against Us, Our Heires, and Successors, without pleading the said pardon, licence, or dispensation at large, or for or concerning any penalties, or forfeitures accrued, or hereafter to be accrued vnto Us, Our Heires, or Successors, by or from any person or persons named in the said Letters patents of pardon, licence, and dispensation for any of the offences and breaches of them or any of them respectively committed against the said Statute aboue recited, or any clause or article therein contained. In witnesse whereof we haue caused these Our Letters to be made Patents, witness Our selfe at Westminster the fourth day of February, in the sixteenth yeere of Our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth.



